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LEAVE IT TO THE WAC

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

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Troop Topics (Army Troop Information Discussion Topics) are for the use of Army commanders in informing their troops.

This issue explains the WAC's place in our Army.

In writing us, please use this address:

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PRESENTATION TIPS

Purpose

The reason for this talk is to explain the WAC's place in our Army. If men in the Army—particularly new soldiers—understand the WAC's important role, the job of these enlisted women is made easier and more pleasant.

The basic theme of the article is that women can do and are doing many important jobs in the Army, jobs that bear directly on the personal welfare of every soldier. Assigning women to jobs they can do, so that men, in turn, can concentrate on jobs that require men, is simply a case of using manpower to the best advantage.

Presentation

If you have a WAC detachment on your post, it may be well to invite a Wac to present your material. There are both advantages and disadvantages in having a Wac as your main speaker. You'll have to evaluate your audience before deciding on inviting a Wac to speak.

Besides lending a bit of variety to the program, a Wac usually can put on a more forceful presentation because it is "her" service she will be talking about. On the other hand, when a man explains to other men the important jobs Wacs are doing—a subject which incidentally is believed to be important enough for Army-wide presentation—it may have a better over-all effect. In other words, it usually sounds better for someone else to mention the good job you are doing than for you, yourself, to talk about it.

Whatever way you decide to present the material, you should tailor it to your audience. To combat troops, for instance, stress the value of Wacs to the Army—and more personally to the soldier in combat—in making more men available for combat duty, particularly new men coming into the Army. For soldiers in service-type jobs, emphasize the fact Wacs are an important source of good, skilled technicians to fill a number of service-type jobs.

This material has been prepared primarily for a male audience. It is, nonetheless, pertinent for a WAC group. It is always well to review your own role in any mission to see how you fit in and what you contribute to the over-all picture.

The examples in the article of WAC activities at various installations are to illustrate the different type jobs Wacs are doing today. They

should give you ideas for examples of jobs Wacs are doing at your own post. Where possible, substitute examples from your local situation. Call on the Wacs for help in giving you information on the jobs they are doing on your post.

Discussion Questions

The following are a few suggested questions you might ask at the conclusion of this talk:

1. The WAC is only one of several women's services. What are some of the others?
2. Bearing in mind current restrictions on WAC assignments, what types of training would be beneficial to the Wacs for their own protection?
3. Women in civilian life often receive less pay for the same type of work as men. This is NOT true in the Army. Why?
4. Why is it important that Wacs be employed only in job fields where women can hold supervisory positions?
5. How does the use of women in jobs they can do make best use of the Nation's manpower?

CONFERENCE LEADER'S OUTLINE

Commander's Notes

News

Troop Topic: Leave It To The WAC

1. **Using Wacs in the Army helps get the most out of Army manpower.**
 - a. Wacs work *with you* and *for you* for the Nation's security.
 - b. In effect, each thousand new Wacs means close to another battalion that can be made available for combat forces.

2. WAC has proud, nine-year record.

- a. Founded in 1942 as Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. Changed to Women's Army Corps in 1943.
- b. 100,000 Wacs served in World War II, holding down 300 different jobs.
- c. Wacs earned all service and commendatory ribbons, some combat ribbons. But they are proudest of overcoming Army's "all male" prejudice.

3. Wacs are doing many jobs at home and abroad.

- a. 1,400 serve in Far East; others in European Command, in Caribbean, and with General Eisenhower's SHAPE Headquarters.
- b. Wacs authorized jobs in 18 of Army's 31 career fields; 146 out of 491 jobs.

4. Wacs may be assigned to almost any type unit that can meet WAC job and housing restrictions.

- a. Jobs must be suitable for American women.
- b. Jobs must permit qualified Wacs to advance to top of career field.
- c. Wacs are assigned only to fixed-type headquarters where they can be housed in groups of 50 or more.
- d. Wacs in the field are not assigned forward of an army headquarters.

5. Wacs are a cross section of American womanhood.

- a. All are volunteers.
- b. Most have high school educations; some are college graduates.

6. Excepting weapons and tactics, WAC basic training is similar to men's.

- a. If they want to, Wacs can qualify with weapons.
- b. After basic training, Wacs can go to regular service schools, where they have equal standing with men.
- c. Wacs are subject to same rules of Army discipline as men; they get same pay, insurance, and other benefits.
- d. Wacs may get "small extras" for their quarters, but no special breaks on a job.

7. WAC units are organized much the same as men's.

- a. Usually 50 to 200 women in a company.
- b. WAC officers are addressed as "Ma'am". They command women only, but have supervisory authority over men when necessary.
- c. Wacs are organized in self-contained units; handle their own mess, supply, transportation, discipline, and protection.

8. Request for more Wacs is tribute to their ability.

- a. Congress has authorized the WAC to increase its strength from 10,000 to 30,000.
- b. More Wacs mean added service help where it counts—in getting pay, food, clothing, medical aid to you.
- c. Secretary of the Army Frank Pace says:
"The demand for more Wacs to fill more and more jobs in the Army is a sincere compliment to their ability, loyalty, and devotion to duty."

Leave It To The WAC

Members of the Women's Army Corps help with many jobs in today's Army—help us do a bigger job for our Country.

The coming of the Women's Army Corps to Camp Walton had been a subject of discussion for weeks. In fact, ever since the post commander had asked for 200 Wacs, questions like these had been tossed back and forth: Where would they work? What would they do? How would they fit in with normal operations at the camp?

To answer these questions, Captain Helen M. Dean, in charge of the WAC advance party, was asked to appear on an information program and explain how the Women's Army Corps is organized, and what it does to improve over-all Army efficiency.

Why Do We Have Wacs in the Army?

Captain Dean's opening remarks struck home.

"The most important thing for you men to remember about the Wacs," she said, "is that they are here to work *with you* and *for you* for our Nation's security. They are soldiers. Like you, they are doing jobs that have to be done. In assigning Wacs to jobs they can do, the Army is simply making the best possible use of the manpower (and "womanpower") available to it.

How Do Wacs Help in Your Job?

"Wacs," Captain Dean continued, "help the service troops do their job. By nature, women are skillful in many mechanical and administrative tasks. Many Wacs also attended business and professional schools before enlisting, and the Army now is making good use of this training.

"In helping our service forces do their job, Wacs naturally help the combat forces, because the purpose of service troops is to support the men at the front. But as important as this contribution may be, I think Wacs help our combat soldiers even more in another way. Em-

ployment of Wacs in many service-type jobs makes it possible for the combat forces to get a bigger and better share of the Nation's fighting manpower. In effect, every time the Army enlists a thousand Wacs, it releases about another battalion for our combat forces.

"For the most part, the combat forces get this added help by way of the reception centers, where more new men who can meet the physical and mental requirements for combat arms are now going to combat training installations.

"The demands of our enlarging Army, however, sometimes require that service soldiers here at home be transferred to service jobs in the field, or, if they can meet required standards, reassigned to a combat arm. When this situation arises, jobs that either a man or a woman could fill are usually filled by women. Overseas, as the need for more service soldiers increases, men move out into the field, and Wacs follow behind to do as many jobs in the rear installations as they can.

"When Wacs are assigned in this way, they are filling a woman's normal wartime role. Since war creates an endless number of jobs that only men can do, it makes sense to employ women where we can and use men where there's a greater need for them. The situation in the Army in this respect is actually no different from that in thousands of similar situations in civilian life, where women manage farms and factories while men fight.

What's the Background of the Corps?

"The WAC," Captain Dean went on, "began as a women's auxiliary in 1942. At that time it was known as the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. In 1943, when women were given equal status with men in the Army, the service was renamed the Women's Army Corps. At top strength during World War II, over 100,000 women served in the WAC. These women were on duty at over 400 posts in the continental United States, and in 14 foreign countries. They were then actively engaged in nearly 300 different jobs.

"During World War II, members of the WAC earned the right to wear the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, and all the various theater, commendation, and merit ribbons; a few even won Purple Hearts and one was awarded the Soldier's Medal for bravery.

"But what these women earned in the way of medals, they consider less important than the respect they earned from the men with whom they served. Their greatest achievement, they felt, was their success in overcoming the natural prejudices of an 'all male Army.' They did this by being on Normandy Beach a few days after D-Day—sinking in the mud of Italy, sweating through the heat and flies of North Africa,

shivering in the damp cold of Alaska, picking their way through the jungles of the Pacific. In its brief history in World War II, the WAC earned popular recognition and appreciation.

"Recognizing a permanent need, a grateful Nation spelled that recognition into law in 1948, when the WAC was made an organic part of the Regular Army and Reserve. Today the WAC numbers over 11,000 officers and enlisted women on active duty. More than 20 percent of this number are now serving overseas—over 1,400 in the Far East Command; hundreds more in Germany and Austria; in the Caribbean Theater; and with General Eisenhower's SHAPE Headquarters.

What Kinds of Jobs Are WACs Doing?

"Wacs are now working in 18 of the Army's 31 career fields. Of the 491 job specialties listed by the Army, women are now authorized employment in 146. I particularly emphasize the word 'authorized' because the WAC—as its record in World War II shows—*can do* more jobs than currently established as appropriate for women.

"Typical of WAC jobs is the work of the 7774th Signal Battalion at Heidelberg, Germany. Here Wacs have highly specialized communications duties. Some are telephone operators and switchboard supervisors. Others operate manual and semi-automatic teletype machines; still others are code room supervisors and signal message clerks. Women, as you know, are employed to do these same jobs in civilian industry.

"These Wacs at the Heidelberg communications center are important cogs in the flow of messages between the European Command and Washington; that go to major Army centers in the US Zone; to American embassies across the Continent of Europe and to a military post a few miles away. Nineteen of these Wacs were sent a few months ago to SHAPE Headquarters near Paris to set up initial communications facilities. These made up the advance party for the 7th Signal Battalion, a WAC Detachment which works with French, Dutch, and British service women at SHAPE Headquarters today.

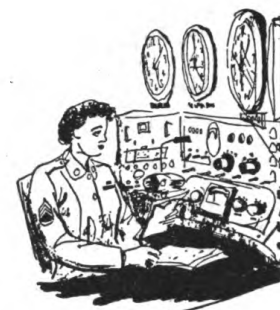
What Are Restrictions on WAC Assignments?

"In addition to the normal considerations in assigning any soldier to a job in the Army, such as whether he can do the job and his possibilities for advancing to the top of his career field, assignment of enlisted women is governed by other factors. At present, Wacs are normally assigned to duty only at locations where 50 or more can be quartered together. They are also assigned only to fixed type units, such as headquarters, base depots, and other installations that do not

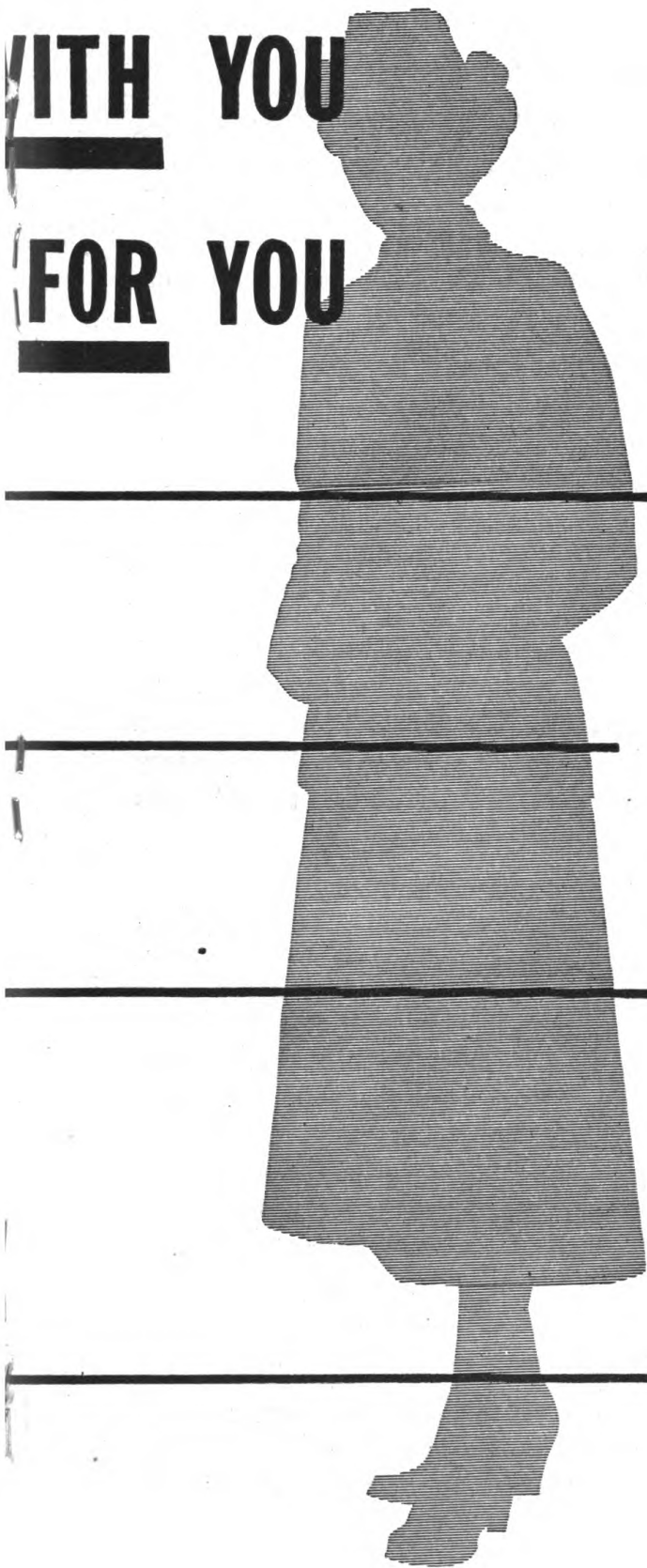
THE WAC

THEY WORK W

AND



WITH YOU
FOR YOU



move frequently. In the field, Wacs are not assigned to duties forward of army headquarters.

Where Are They Working Now?

"The jobs now open to women in the Army go far beyond typing and general office work. For instance, a WAC PFC who was a landscape architect for a nursery in New York City and who attended an eastern university, where she majored in engineer drafting, is now doing office drafting and field survey work at the Army Engineer Center, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

"Another of the Wacs assigned to the Army Engineer Center was a commercial artist in civilian life. Now this WAC corporal is teaching the 'why's and wherefores' of cartographic drafting at the Engineer School. Over 100 other highly trained Wacs are assigned to positions in the Engineer Center's map reproduction plant, in the academic records section of the School, and as lighting, drafting, and electrical engineers.

"A similar situation exists today at the Army Chemical Center at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland. Close to 100 Wacs are on duty there. In addition to WAC clerks, stenographers, classification and assignment personnel, and IBM machine operators, there is also a WAC laboratory technician, a photographer, and an illustrator, who draws training aids and posters for the Center.

"Incidentally, it was here at Edgewood Arsenal during the last war, that a WAC PFC established a strong claim to the world's most colorful job—testing the Army's many-colored smoke grenades.

"In photography, Wacs not only take pictures, but repair complicated motion picture cameras and sound equipment. In the scientific and medical fields, they set up and operate medical equipment, translate enemy documents, and conduct chemical tests on military supplies. Wacs also do a large part of the Army's fingerprint work, check and record legal claims, act as motor vehicle dispatchers, and plan a more effective use of personnel. Also, much of the Army's printing in the field is being done with the aid of Wacs. So is its radio broadcasting, and its complicated Signal Corps code work. In all these jobs, women can work up to top supervisory positions.

"In the food service field, women are assigned to duty as mess stewards as well as cooks. They are limited here, however, to WAC messes and to consolidated messes where both men and women are served.

Jobs Suitable For American Women

"In authorizing job assignments for women, particular care is taken to see that the job does not involve a type of duty which violates our concept of proper employment for sisters and girl friends. In the military transport field, for example, women do not drive heavy trucks, and, as military police, they are used only in actions involving women.

"Before authorizing the assignment of women to a job, the Army also makes certain that women can do the job as economically as men and can be trained for it just as easily.

"Within the limits of location, and type of duty, Wacs can be assigned to almost any type of unit where a vacancy exists. They are assigned jobs in all branches of the Army; in supply installations, signal centers, parachute maintenance shops, medical laboratories, and hospitals.

Wacs Help the Sick

"Speaking of hospitals, for a moment let's step inside the big 155th Station Hospital in Yokohama, Japan. Approximately one-fourth of the Wacs assigned in this area are working in this hospital. When a patient is admitted, he is interviewed by a Wac from the admitting section of the registrar. From there, he is taken to a ward where other Wacs see to his constant care and comfort. No matter where he goes for medical attention—eye clinic, dental clinic, physical therapy clinic, X-ray, or even surgery—there is a Wac to help take care of him and to aid in the administration of the treatment prescribed for him.

"Many of the WAC's medical technicians have been sent to this hospital. At present, that is where they are needed most. I might add that in this, and other Army hospitals, Wacs take off-duty time to help write letters or do other thoughtful things for the sick.

"Similarly in Germany, many Wacs in their off-duty hours are now working with the US Army's German Youth Activities Program. This program was initiated in 1946 to help young German boys and girls gain a better understanding of our democratic way of life. Wacs entertain these German youngsters with parties, games, weekly meetings, picnics, and athletic programs. One WAC noncommissioned officer in Wiesbaden at one time was directing a youth program affecting 15,000 German children.

Cross Section of American Womanhood

"As individuals," Captain Dean continued, "members of the WAC are pretty much what you'd find among a cross section of women in any American town today.

"Most of them have high school educations. Many are college graduates. They come from farms, small towns, and cities. Some are young, because they can join at 18. Some are older—these are usually women who enlisted during the last war and who chose to remain in the Service. All have the same feelings—hopes, dreams, and fears—that other women have. In so many words, they are people, and as individually different as any group, anywhere.

"All are volunteers, serving enthusiastically, and wanting most of all to help get on with the job the Army has to do.

Treatment in Comparison With Other Soldiers

"With the exception of combat training, Wacs undergo much the same basic training as men. Those who *volunteer* for it, even get a chance to qualify with a weapon. After their basic training, some go on to regular service schools, such as the Medical Department Field Service School, the Signal Corps Cryptographic School, the Army Finance School, and the Provost Marshal General School. In these service schools, Wacs become regular class members on equal standing with men, just as is the practice in co-educational schools in civilian life. It is interesting to note that at the MP school a Wac recently achieved distinction for her skill in clearing up a number of larceny cases.

"Wacs are subject to the same rules of Army discipline as men. They also get the same insurance, medical, and retirement benefits as other soldiers. They stand retreat and reveille at the same hours and in the same way as men. They also get an equal share of parade formations, extra-duty, and KP. In every way their work-day is the same, and for this reason they get equal pay and privileges, rank for rank. They do not expect, and will not receive different treatment on the job. They have always done their share in any office, or on any other assignment they've been given. However, they are sometimes allowed to brighten their living quarters with curtains and other little extras that mean so much to women.

Self-Contained Units

"WAC companies have the same number of officers as other comparable Army units, and vary as a rule in strength from 50 to 200 women. A WAC CO's responsibilities are the same as any other company commander's. She is entitled to the same respect tendered any other officer. However, she is addressed as 'Ma'am' instead of 'Sir.' WAC officers command enlisted women only, but when they are in charge of an office employing men and women soldiers, they have supervisory authority over the men, too.

"WAC units normally are self-contained administrative units. They are their own cooks; take care of their own supply requirements; handle their own problems of transportation, discipline, and to some extent, their own protection."

In her concluding remarks, Captain Dean explained the great need for more of these women soldiers.

Army Needs More WACs

"Right now," she said, "the Army has requests on hand from Army commanders for many times the number of enlisted women currently in training. That's why the Army is increasing the WAC strength from about 10,000 to 30,000 women. However, it is the present desire of the fathers, mothers, and brothers of this country that American women enter the Nation's Armed Forces by their own free will. But to volunteer, women of this country must be convinced that their services are really needed—that, as Wacs, they can really help men in the Service.

"And if you think about it a moment, you can see how Wacs help you every day.

"One of the most personal things to all of us is our pay. There's a lot of paper work in getting your pay to you on time and in the right amount. It's the same story with allotments to your family. The Wacs have a large part in keeping pay records up-to-date and seeing that pay and allotments go out on time.

"Nobody has to be told that 'there's nothing like a letter from home.' This has a real meaning to those of us in the Service, particularly overseas. Wacs fill many an important job in the Army Postal Service that sends mail to soldiers all over the world.

"No one's especially happy about taking immunization 'shots'. But all of us realize that they must be taken regularly if we are to get the medical protection we need. Keeping medical records is another WAC activity that means a lot personally to everyone in the Army.

"And so it goes every day in the Service—food, clothing, and hundreds of other jobs the WAC helps out with to give us a better Army life.

WAC Jobs Require Women in Uniform

"Should any one ask you why more women are needed in uniform in addition to the thousands of civilian women the Army already employs, explain it to them this way: Women are needed in uniform for the same reason men are. The very special nature of military activities requires persons to be in uniform—requires men and women who can be moved from place to place more readily, who can be supplied and housed more

easily, and who can be counted on to do a military job, wherever it is, whatever it is, and for as long as necessary."

At the end of her talk, Captain Dean read a short congratulatory message given the Women's Army Corps by Secretary of the Army, Frank Pace, Jr. He had said:

"I believe very deeply in the Women's Army Corps; I believe in the importance of the Corps to the Army and the Nation; I believe in the importance of the Corps to women everywhere.

"The selected young women who have chosen to serve America as Wacs have done so in the finest traditions of the greatest Army in the world. The demand for more Wacs to fill more and more jobs in the Army is a sincere compliment to their ability, loyalty, and devotion to duty."